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THE CATHOLIC LIBRARY WORLD

MAR - 2 1945

Library Survey

Mary Fabyan Windeatt

Keeping Up With Today

The Walls Are Lined
With Books

Some Current Books and
the Current Crisis

VOL. 16, NO. 5

FEBRUARY, 1945



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Vol. 16 February - 1945 No. 5

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Contemporary Catholic Authors: Mary Fabyan Windeatt and Juvenile Hagiography

By ALMA SAVAGE

Factors both significant and unique are to be found in the work of Mary Fabyan Windeatt. For instance when young writers come to New York—even those brimming with confidence—they nearly always consider it necessary to compromise their fund of time by taking a part-time job: this gives them a feeling of security. Miss Windeatt, however, did not compromise. Even though one accepts some help from home in the beginning, it is still very unusual to tackle, as Miss Windeatt did, a full-time authorship, writing a 99,000 word novel during the first year of arrival in New York (1934-35). The history of successful writers will reveal that only aver recognition has crowned their efforts do they reach the full-time stage of writing. It has been said that a beginner must write two million words before acquiring facility with the pen. Re-writing this novel three times must have given Miss Windeatt considerable facility as well as the confidence needed to storm the reception clerks of editors and rise above the deluge of rejection slips. Slowly, however, a few poems lighted, among them; one being accepted by the *Torch* magazine. This was the beginning of continuous work with the Dominican Fathers in New York, who have been the greatest single factor in the guidance and encouragement of Miss Windeatt. Soon the magazine carried a regular monthly

children's page and a woman's-interest feature which she wrote, followed by the serialization of *Saints in the Sky*, the life of St. Catherine of Siena, which was published in 1941 by Sheed and Ward.

The seven-year period which preceded the publication of her first book was filled with days of steady work at the typewriter. Meanwhile, Miss Windeatt was always studying the market and suggesting topics to editors. As a result, her poems, articles, regular features, and occasional radio scripts allowed her to keep on terms with the grocer. Her activity also included interviews with the great and near-great, her first being with Pietro Yon, the world-famous organist of St. Patrick's Cathedral, who died in 1943. Having walked around Carnegie Hall twice in order to whip up courage, she finally rang the doorbell and found Pietro Yon surrounded by income tax forms. He was simple, encouraging and helpful, and so dispelled her timidity. She later ventured many other articles, one, the writing of which entailed a visit to Fred Snite, Jr., in his iron lung in River Forest, Illinois, and another, to Caugnawaga, near Montreal, where she looked at the bones of Kateri Tekakwitha through the glass top of a box.

This early period (1934-41) might at first glance appear lacking in focus, but

in reality one can see a shining thread weaving a unity. Remembering that Miss Windeatt's recognition first came from the Dominican Fathers who were working for the cause of Blessed Martin, it might not be presumptuous to suggest that Martin furnished a certain continuity—that occasionally he gave an additional boost to this young writer.

At any rate, in the summer of 1941 she went two months in Peru with the Sign Seminar in order to absorb the atmosphere of the locality which produced Martin, St. Rose and other contemporary people, holy in a heroic degree.

Typical of Mary Windeatt, she was tireless in tracking down every possible influence that bore upon the life of Blessed Martin de Porres. To this end, she steeped herself in the lives of his contemporaries: there was Francis Solano, the missionary who traveled over the jungles of Argentina and Peru and lured the Indians by the sweet tones of his violin: there was Archbishop Turribius, who confirmed Rose. Very soon Miss Windeatt learned to understand the culture of the Colonial period in South America—how, then as now, the misfortune of a darker shade of skin (whether black or red) seemed the logical excuse for exploitation. She wandered over the cobble-stoned streets of Lima and spent hours in Santo Domingo, where Martin had lived the forty-five years of his religious life.

In her search she found one immovable barrier—she was a woman; therefore, she could not be allowed to step inside the monastery except by special permission from the Pope: she could not browse through the gardens, the choir, the Chapter Hall where Martin had gone

about his prayer and work. So she did the next best thing; she made a searching observation of one small part of the cloister by standing just outside it. There, beyond the open door, were the mosaic columns shining blue, yellow and green in the garden; there was the carved balcony dating from Colonial times, which looked down at Martin's fountain. As one can easily see, Miss Windeatt is not a casual person: the research for her biographies, whether or not it is possible to visit the actual locale, is thorough and extensive, and her gifted pen produces a sense of reality which the reader accepts as first-hand authority.

The immediate result of this trip was the publication in 1942 of *Lad of Lima*, an appealing story of Martin which is perhaps the most important, to date, of Miss Windeatt's nine books. She tells the life story of this negro beatified by the Church with loving simplicity: there is his simple trust in prayer, his thoughtfulness for the sick, his kindness to stray animals—and through it all, and not least important, is the healthy attitude toward race felt by the reader. Between the lines one can sense the overpowering lesson in contrasts: the accident of color of the skin versus what is in the heart of man. In producing this effect, Miss Windeatt does not annihilate prejudice, as with an axe; she smothers it with God's love, as does Martin himself. It is especially important that these healthy attitudes toward race should be taught to children in the early grades: probably no direct presentation of such lessons can do what appreciation-through-the-story can accomplish.

Eight of the author's books are lives of saints for children. *Sing Joyfully* (1942) is a collection of her poetry which had

been published in magazines during the preceding seven years. This verse is exceedingly pleasing and, in varying degrees, witty, poignant and joyous. The following is representative of the simple directness which is her gift:

"I think that what I like the most
Is how the High and Holy Ghost
Came down upon a dozen men
And made them brave again.

Just how He squeezed into their veins
And nudged the neurons in their brains
And quenched the quaver in their hearts
With little fires and darts . . ."

And here is one called the "Penitent."
We call it adorable.

"He has some freckles on his nose
Ambiguously ranged in rows
But he will never tell of those

Instead, his words shall speak of crime:
He hates his teacher all the time
And once he stole a shiny dime;

And when he might have been quite wise
And slipped from Satan and his spies
He told a dozen daring lies.

Yet bless him, Father, manful mite,
Whose soul is still not far from white
These seven years in mortal flight."

My Name Is Thomas, published next, but written three years earlier, is the story, told in the first person, of Thomas Aquinas. To choose such an intellectual saint with not a great deal of external adventure in his life and tell his story in terms a very young child can understand, shows a fearless disregard of the difficulties involved. For people are still bound by the old prejudice that the life of a saint, to appeal to children, must be filled with an abundance of external activity.

In 1943 came two more biographies: *Hero of the Hills*, the story of St. Benedict and his building of the world-famous

Abbey of Monte Cassino; then *Angel of the Andes*, a life of St. Rose of Lima, first canonized saint of the new world. *St. Benedict* was written as the result of a pamphlet prepared on that subject for the monks of St. Meinrad's Abbey in Indiana, and *St. Rose* as an additional result of the trip to Peru two years earlier.

Three more books, written for children, were published the following year, 1944: *Warrior in White*, the story of Blessed John Masias, a Dominican lay brother who fought against the social wrongs of the seventeenth century in Peru; *Little Sister*, the story of Blessed Imelda, Patroness of First Communicants; and *Little Queen*, a simple life of the Little Flower. In *Little Sister* moral teaching for the young is woven into the story as an integral part, never forced, never with a patch-work effect. The context of the book also shows the influence of saints stories on children's lives, for character formation and for the direct imitation of heroic virtues. Again, the life of Imelda does not contain many stirring events; yet the story value runs deep and the plot is woven well.

These new books, as well as the earlier ones, reviewers have received warmly. As the *Canadian Register* points out, "Miss Windeatt's juveniles are especially good for younger readers because she writes with a straight simplicity of style and portraiture rather than psychological analysis. There is no trace of writing down, and her biographies, always accurate and preceded by much historical research, make interesting and profitable adult reading." The same paper, in speaking of *Warrior in White*, says: "There is an air of wholesome natural piety about the book, and when heavenly

visions occur, or the devil throws John down the stairs, the young reader will take it smoothly in his stride as a perfectly true to life and an altogether-to-be-expected part of the story."

Which brings us to another interesting aspect of Miss Windeatt's work—the idea that holiness can be fun and adventure and is in no way limited to hairshirts and penances, though these have their place in her stories. The *Abbey News* in Atchison, Kansas, said of *Hero of the Hills*: "It should be a relief to find a book in which heroism is not identified with the biggest muscles." And we hope with them that Miss Windeatt's books are making conquests among the camp-followers of Superman. Sister Rose Helen, S.C., told of a questionnaire given to young readers of *Saints in the Sky*. It revealed that they liked the book because St. Catherine was brave, especially in the sense that she was not afraid to do what God asked her to do. Certainly the teaching of Catholic principles through supplementary reading today is being helped greatly by biographies such as these.

Columbia says: "In these books Miss Windeatt exercises her gift for making remote periods and people come alive to modern children without changing the essential, historical qualities of the originals. She pays her child audience the compliment of writing for them in clear, excellent prose."

In another very special manner is Miss Windeatt rendering a real service to the Catholic laity—by her particular gift in accepting the miraculous with the simplicity of a child and in choosing such episodes of the saint's life as will sustain interest in his achievement in establishing the Kingdom of God. She is able to

weave in considerable doctrine without ever getting beyond the range of the child's intelligence and imagination.

In addition to the function of teaching and entertaining, an entirely new result of the author's work was revealed on the receipt of a letter with a British Columbia postmark, from a boy of ten. "We were Protestants," the lad wrote, "and had no intention of becoming Catholics. But *Lad of Lima* set me thinking about matters. My mother thought about things, too. We were received into the Church on July 17th. I think that *Lad of Lima* brought me into the Church." Later correspondence indicates that the young convert is now planning to become a priest. Miss Windeatt's fan mail is considerable, and from it she receives no little amount of encouragement. It includes a note from the Most Reverend Fernando Cento, Papal Nuncio to Peru, warmly encouraging her to continue with ever-increasing zeal in the important apostolic work of writing for the Catholic press. One little girl wrote: "Reading *Lad of Lima* makes me feel like being nice to negroes."

Since there is such a great field for writers of Catholic juvenile material, and so few writers are answering the call, the subject of conversation often revolves about the best way of developing talent. Some believe that it is advisable to put more stress on this activity in Catholic colleges through the means of advanced writing classes; but on this subject Miss Windeatt takes a firm stand. She believes that training in writing is not of major importance—that people should be trained to be staunch Catholics first—that "if you feel a thing urgently enough you will say it forcefully too."

(Continued on page 155)

Keeping Up With Today

By HELEN C. WELSH, Librarian,
Philip Schuyler High School, Albany, New York

*"In words as fashions the same rule will hold,
Alike fantastic if too new or old:*

*Be not the first by whom the new are tried,
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."*¹

If one were to paraphrase Pope, and substitute "books" for "words" and then, having made the substitution, take the advice of the poet, there would be no need for discussion on such controversial topics as "weeding" the library. Most librarians, whether by intent, or merely in the line of the nature of things, rarely err on the side of the "fantastic" as far as the "new" is concerned: department budgets, approval of numerous "heads," and in general, a super amount of red tape usually stand between the desire for a new item and the ultimate possession of the coveted title. An effective block against the fantastic! It is not, therefore, the "new" which is a thorn in the librarian's side; rather it is the clutter of dead wood that in its disuse casts an air of senility over its surroundings, stultifying even the freshest of ardors. This effect is distressingly obvious in the small library.

As we well know, every library abounds in "old books"—aged, infirm, unproductive, obsolete, ineffective, unsound, archaic, out-of-touch, out-of-date, and in many cases, dilapidated and dirty books, in all cases uniformly bound in repul-

sively practical covers of dull red, dull green, dull brown or just dull black. Some—too many—librarians have an exaggerated sense of duty towards remnants of the past and make of their libraries a veritable "home for the aged," grouping blindly the decayed with the ever-new—those books whose years are many but which are timeless in their content and in their style. For the age of such books has nothing to do with years. They are part of the great stream of human life that is ageless, continuous, born anew hourly; they are one with time and eternity. Their appeal is infinite. They hold within their covers the spark that ignites the human soul, that knows not a day, not a year, not a century, but is the reflection of eternity itself.

In that group one places the Bible, the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, the tales of the East; the lore of ancient China; the writings of the early Fathers of the Church; the homely stories of provincial life of the middle ages, such as *The Cloister and the Hearth*, *Life on a Mediaeval Barony*, and the writings of Scott. No one would dream of discarding such material. One would, however, dress them in modern fashion, give them the exterior their content deserves. As a matter of fact, the popularity and timelessness of such books is annually attested by the new and beautifully illustrated editions which continue to pour from the

1. Pope, Alexander. *Essay on Criticism*. pt. 2, l. 133.

press despite the threats of paper shortage and other exigencies forced on overworked publishers in these war years. Indeed these new editions of "old" friends show us that such books not only march with the times, they are in the vanguard, and not infrequently, they even show the way.

Repeatedly it is called to the librarian's attention (rather in the nature of a rebuke) that the reading public of these middle years of the twentieth century is vastly different from the small army of readers of the nineteenth, and that it is the job of the library to supply these legions of readers with the material they can comprehend and enjoy. We agree wholeheartedly. Indeed, we take seriously our place in the world of today—purveyors of the written word to an eager and clamoring public. In this huge group there is a great variety of tastes. There are those who savor, and those who merely eat; those "who taste and those who swallow"; the few who "chew and digest." But, irrespective of such grouping, the important thing is to read; to see how the other fellow lives, how he meets his problem; to consider his evaluation of life. To that end we must keep those books that are universal and eternal in the problems presented, in the situations developed, in the character revealed. One thinks of Dickens, of the Brontës, of Jane Austen, of Thackeray—not in "sets" of dun colored, eye-punishing double columns of print—sets such as many of our schools and libraries have fallen heir to through the misguided generosity of elderly philanthropists who realize the value of such works, but who completely lose sight of the fact that our modern readers have been taught to read books so attractively printed that the page itself

is a delight to the eye even before its message is a delight to the mind.

It is lamentable to see an attractive library room—attractive, let us say, insofar as location and furniture are concerned—made definitely repellent to readers because of the condition of the books on the shelves. Everyone will agree that the majority of readers today are fastidious; indeed, Americans make a fetish of cleanliness and attractiveness. Yet, after a good deal of the taxpayer's money is spent on the furnishing of a library, we stupidly nullify that intelligent step by crowding the shelves with a depressing looking assortment of rubbish. It is a common feeling that the garb denotes the man. Who in his right senses would seek acquaintance with these evil looking volumes? Because of the forbidding appearance without, the prospective reader is prevented from finding the treasure within. The custodian of the library in which such conditions prevail has lost sight of the purpose and function of the library. Let us use the school library to illustrate this point. The purpose here—to supplement the books required in the curriculum, to enrich the experiences of the developing child, to aid both pupil and teacher in the ever-widening problems of education—does not admit of unused material on the shelves. Myriads of books tumbling over one another is not the sign of a successful library; it is an appalling sight—the ragged army of the great unwanted. In measuring good library service here let us set as our standard shelves practically empty except at inventory. The book of limited appeal or no appeal whatever is not for this workshop where every book must pay dividends in terms of recreation or added knowledge.

Where shall we begin to discard? As indicated above, any book in shabby condition or in dreary format regardless of condition should be definitely eliminated from the collection. While the librarian is engaged in this important job—for only the librarian is qualified to decide which books must go—she will check several sources to determine whether or not the title should be replaced. The circulation record on the “date-due” slip tells a story of use—or disuse—as the case might be. The fact that a book is not used, cannot always be traced to its physical condition, however; it may be simply outmoded and its appeal today so limited that it is merely taking up room on shelves which should be filled with more up-to-date material. Then, the printed aids will guide the librarian in making a selection of these unused books to keep in a reserved room, perhaps, or in stacks to be checked occasionally for use. She will think up ways to display some of these so that interest may be aroused in them and lead to their circulation again. For the subjects that may be discarded without any question and in wholesale lots—stories and reminiscences of the first World War come first to mind. They are as dated now as the dodo. So fast has time raced that even some of the reminiscences of the present conflict lag in popular appeal. The reader of today wants to be in the know. He skips those books that less than two years ago he read avidly, books of the African campaign, desert warfare, New Guinea. These books have not circulated since our armies moved up into Italy and France, since our marines have moved into Saipan and the Philippines, and this circumstance engenders some serious thought on the problem of step-

ping up the books in our library to keep pace with current events and current interest. That of course, is a part of the book selection policy, but in the final analysis, so is discarding. The former places on the shelves material needed so that the library will function properly; the latter takes off that which has outlived its usefulness and which blocks proper functioning. Books on the present conflict are only one class of material which must be considered for weeding. Memories of the furore created by Stuart Chase’s *Men and Machines* which led to the still greater confusion (in libraries, at least) when “Technocracy” was the byword screaming at us from every periodical, and which, it seemed, could not get into print fast enough, are still vivid in the librarian’s mind with the startling clarity of a nightmare. Consider the books on radio and aviation. The changes in the scientific world are dizzying in their speed and number; one needs a tachometer to measure the steps of its progress. Fashioning a crystal set is more or less frozen in its plan, but what boy would be content with the model of a fighter plane of 1918 when he can with greater ease learn how to operate a B-29! In our general science books, the methods and procedures of the past few years have radically changed the value of the content of science books of even a decade ago, and still some librarians hesitate to get rid of these outmoded books—because of the empty spaces that might appear on their shelves! Do they realize, one wonders, the harm, yes, the real harm that can be done to potential readers by this scattering of the useless old among the useful new? Presenting for use an outmoded book in science or economics to the person not interested in the historical

development of such subjects is in the nature of playing a trick on the unsuspecting reader. He reads, tries to get the connection between what he reads and things as he knows they are, and finds himself wandering dazedly in a sort of half world of the old and the new. Too much of this misguidance and he might soon begin to suspect all the books in the library of being a snare for his confusion. The trust with which he came to the library in the first place would soon be succeeded by a mistrust that might never be broken down. The library, then, is not living up to its purpose which is to have the right book at the right time. For want of a book, a reader was lost; for want of a reader, a library was lost . . . Not too far fetched that. We know that this has actually happened to libraries which have had to close their doors—because of the lack of sensibility and practicability in the service they were giving the public.²

Not long ago one of our pupils of superior ability was a member of a group selecting some books on "careers or college," a favorite topic for sophomore discussion. She made her own selection *The American College Girl*, and before I could head her off and persuade her to take one of the newer books on the subject, she had gone. The book came back next morning, accompanied by a very disillusioned little girl who thought that "college must be very dull" and who no longer desired to have a college education. Fortunately, she was persuaded to try Alsop's *She's Off to College* and her interest in higher education sat up and took a little nourishment. I had hesitated to remove the bright cherry and

gold covered *American College Girl*—it hadn't seemed right to discard such a "really good book"—and yet, I know that since it had such a definite reaction on one pupil, it will not serve our purpose any longer—for after all, we must try to persuade some pupils that college is a desirable place to spend four years, and we must do it with books that are written about college today, and not college as it was in 1930—which seems "out of this world" in reverse to the miss of 1945. Well, it is. Almost another generation—and the fifteen or sixteen year old is concerned with only one generation—her own.

This danger of rapid changes lies in many other books in the 300 class. The value of money and the methods of banking are not the same since the SEC and other alphabetic agencies began to function; labor problems in their terminology offer a brand new headache every year; even good manners adapt themselves to changes—which makes Emily Post more than a bit out of date in the first edition. But there are dozens of new authorities and new editions to keep us up to date in all sections of the 300's. No reason for harboring any deadwood in that section.

Books of travel—especially old missionary studies of foreign lands can be freely discarded. So, too, the stilted tales of big game hunting and the condescending expositions on savage tribes. Motion picture weeklies have killed those. Cart off the dead bodies! Put in their place some of the many attractive travel books which will add color and life to the collection.

Old editions of encyclopedias should not be left on the reference shelf even if kept for biography and history because of inadvertent use by a reader to whom

2. Discarding books. *Iowa Library Quarterly* 14:122. Oct.-Dec. 1942.

an encyclopedia is "the voice of authority" without regard for the copyright date.

It isn't wise for any one person to be arbitrary in deciding which of the books on the shelves are "dead wood" and which could be valuable if they were properly brought to the attention of readers. In the *Library Journal* for June 15th, 1940, A. L. Johnson describes one method which might work well in the public library³—a system where special displays and special cards are used to check upon the use of books. In the high school one can be more certain of what to discard because of curriculum changes and teacher methods. Material which has not circulated, or which has not been consulted over a period of three or four years in all likelihood never will be, for in that time, three new classes have entered, curriculum changes have been checked and pertinent materials noted—and unless the turnover in the faculty has been extensive, it is not likely that the change in the teaching methods has been great. The librarian who hesitates to remove books merely because they "may be of use some time" will soon find herself buried under an overwhelming load of heavily padded shelves—a "veritable storehouse of knowledge"—neatly packed, figuratively padlocked and of absolutely no use whatever. This librarian no doubt agrees in all respects with L. S. Stearns⁴ who vehemently protests that no book should ever be removed from the library on the ground that "the rejected books of today become the classics of tomorrow." That statement could bear with a little qualifying. One gathers

the impression that the sole requisite for success in the future is failure in the present. Miss Stearns' argument may be a satisfactory answer for the research or university library or for the large public or state library, but for the small library, today is the important consideration. The busy workman, the student, the housewife who "just wants to read a good book" are interested in what the library has to offer them to help solve their problems today. They are not interested in the classics of tomorrow.

Naturally the time for discarding must be modified to the needs of each library. Perhaps one class can be examined critically each month. This allows a year for the entire collection. Certainly each time a book circulates its condition can be noted by the librarian and she will consider the necessity for repairs, rebinding, or withdrawing altogether. The lack of space in the small library sometimes makes it necessary for more frequent inspection of the shelves. Books must be on the move; there is no space available for the loiterer. An ideal time for a real weeding job presents itself when the library is being reorganized or recataloged. Then, by checking the latest standard book selection aids⁵ the out-of-date material may be removed. All old textbooks should be definitely withdrawn, especially in the fields of science, health education, home economics—dressmaking and interior decoration particularly because of the depressing effect on the reader of the photographs usually found in such books. Books of history in general are expected to be up to the minute. The exception—local history—which finds a

(Continued on page 155)

3. Johnson, A. L. Weeding "deadwood". *Library Journal* 65:510. June 15, 1940.

4. Stearns, L. S. Weed at your peril. *Wisconsin Library Bulletin* 25:296-98. 1929.

5. A list of book selection aids will be found on p. 4-6 of *Weeding the Library*. Albany, University of the State of New York, 1940.

The Walls Are Lined With Books for Study and Research

By ROBERT J. SCOLLARD, C.S.B., Librarian,
Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, Canada

The library of the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies is a highly specialized research library of 15,000 volumes which brings conveniently together books for the study of the Middle Ages. In it old books stand side by side with new books, French and German outnumber English; Latin is more important than any modern language. It is no place for a casual reader.

The Institute of Mediaeval Studies was established by the Basilian Fathers in 1929 as a Graduate School of Philosophy at St. Michael's College, the Catholic College in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Toronto. In 1935 it was re-organized as an independent centre for the study of every aspect and phase of mediaeval life. Four years later Pope Pius XII, after hearing a petition from the entire Canadian Hierarchy, raised it to the rank of a Pontifical Institute with the right to grant the degrees of Licentiate and Doctorate in Mediaeval Studies.

The aim and purpose of the Institute is to contribute, by an intensive study of original sources, to a full and accurate understanding of mediaeval culture and to form scholars equipped to do independent work in this field. Very little has been done along these lines on this continent.

When the library opened there were approximately 3,000 books on the shelves.

From the general library of St. Michael's College came such important collections as Migne's *Patrologia Latina*, 221 vols. and *Patrologia Graeca*, 161 vols.; the *Acta Sanctorum* of the Bollandists, 67 vols.; the *Griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte*, 37 vols.; a copy of St. Albert the Great's *Mariale* printed at Cologne not later than 1473; and about 1,500 other books. Friends gave or lent books from their libraries; first purchases made up the remainder.

PROXIMITY TO OTHER LIBRARIES

The work of assembling an adequate library began at once and until the War closed the European sources of supply almost 1,000 books were added each year. In ordering books, the holdings of nearby libraries have been carefully considered. Within an easy fifteen minute walk is the University of Toronto Library, the Reference Branch of the Toronto Public Library, and the Legislative Library of the Province of Ontario. These are general in scope and contain over 750,000 volumes. Equally close at hand are 250,000 books in the more specialized libraries of several Colleges and Learned Societies. Books that can be used in these libraries are not bought unless they are essential to the work of the Institute, e.g. the expensive *Monumenta Germaniae Historica* was purchased, although a copy was in the University of Toronto Library.

This policy has left gaps in the Institute library. Well-known collections and periodicals are absent, but it has also enabled the library to make a distinct contribution to the book resources of the Community without detriment to the studies of Faculty and students. How it works out can be seen in a *Cross-Section of Mediaeval and Renaissance Holdings in American Libraries*.¹ Professor S. H. Thomson asked sixty-two libraries to report their holdings of forty-five important sets, representing most of the periods and disciplines of interest to mediaeval and Renaissance scholars. The Institute library was the smallest library asked to check its holdings and despite the fact that its scope is limited to half of the survey, it stood thirty-eighth. The University of Toronto Library (365,000 volumes) stood eighteenth, also considerably higher than its ranking in size. Of the forty-five sets only nine are in both libraries. The University has sixteen that the Institute does not have, the Institute six and one-half that are not in the University. Together they give the student of the Middle Ages the resources afforded by a library standing twelfth.

EMPHASIS ON LATIN TEXTS

A second policy formulated by the Director of the Institute, M. Etienne Gilson, and the first Librarian, Reverend Gerald B. Phelan, gave first consideration to the acquisition of source material and reference tools, i.e. to original texts, bibliographies, and encyclopedias. Books about a problem or a man are bought in reasonable measure, and when that man or problem is the subject of intensive study, an attempt is made at completeness in secondary books.

The gathering of the library is a slow difficult process because many of the books are out of print. They are hard to find on this continent but may sometimes be obtained in Europe at the sales of private libraries. Thus from the libraries of Adolf von Harnack and Stephen d'Irsay the Institute secured a number of scarce items. The least available books seem to be those which were published between the years 1550 and 1750 and which have not been reprinted since.

Although no effort is made to secure early printed books just for the sake of their age or rarity, the library has acquired, by gift or purchase, twenty incunabula dating from 1473 to 1498. Some of them have never been reprinted. Those in the library when the second census of fifteenth century books in America was compiled have been listed in *Incunabula in American Libraries*.

Periodicals are very important in the work of the Institute. They contain special studies that are not long enough to put in book form and reports of progress on others that are advancing slowly. Until the outbreak of the War, the library was receiving fifty periodicals from abroad and a like number of serial publications. Unless a periodical was specially needed, the policy of making a contribution to local resources was followed in placing subscriptions and when buying complete sets. The *Joint Catalogue of Periodicals and Serials in the Libraries of the City of Toronto*, published early in 1934 from material collected when the Institute was only a Graduate School of Philosophy and before there had been time to build up the library, lists twenty sets not found in any other Toronto library.

1. *Progress of Medieval and Renaissance Studies in the United States and Canada*. Bulletin No. 16, 1941. p. 50-57.

MANUSCRIPTS AND MICROFILMS

When visitors ask for manuscripts they are surprised to learn that the library possesses only one manuscript, a small collection of sermons probably no older than its early printed books, and thirty or forty leaves from manuscripts for use in class. Fortunately the library has been able to build up a collection of photographic reproductions, largely on microfilm. Edited manuscripts have not been copied because the printed edition is more useful and, except a member of the Institute be preparing a critical edition, no effort has been made to copy all the known manuscripts of a treatise. To date approximately 100,000 pages of manuscript material have been copied. The Librarian has published a catalogue of the collection.²

The library has found that while microfilm is a cheap means of copying needed matter, prolonged reading of the difficult mediaeval handwriting causes eyestrain. Therefore when a treatise is used in a seminar, a positive print is made and bound the same as a book. The library is not copying books on microfilm to any extent, preferring to wait in hopes of obtaining the book itself. When the need is urgent a microfilm is made and later, if it is much used, a positive print is made and bound in book form.

The first home of the Institute was a private house formerly owned by a newspaper editor. In his library-study the library was installed. It had room for 5,000 books. By the time the Institute moved to its present address at 59 Queen's Park Crescent, on the edge of the University campus, it was sadly overcrowded. The new building is of rein-

forced concrete construction faced with Indiana limestone. The library is conveniently arranged for study and research with shelf-space for 5,000 books in the Reading Room. The adjoining stackroom has a capacity of 40,000 volumes. It is air-conditioned to control dust, temperature and lack of humidity. The system does not remove excessive moisture, a summertime condition which is neither serious nor of long duration. The Reading Room seats thirty-two. It has a northern exposure which does away with the use of blinds and the floor is covered with cork tile to deaden noise. Off it open three seminar rooms which are used for classes, reading microfilms and typing.

CATALOGUING AND CLASSIFICATION

The library makes full use of Library of Congress printed cards. It has a standing order for serials and orders cards for new books by author and title. Library of Congress subject headings are followed with a few changes and additions based on the list of *Catholic Subject Headings* compiled by the Reverend Oliver L. Kapsner, O.S.B. However, those who use the library rely on bibliographies to acquaint them with the literature in their fields and only go to the catalogue, after they have the authors and titles, to learn which books are in the library. The majority of the 30,000 cards in the catalogue are printed cards from the Library of Congress. They are filed in thirty drawers which can be used from both the Reading Room and the Librarian's office.

During its formative years the library was not classified and the catalogue was simply a list on cards of the authors represented in the library. Books were arranged on the shelves in broad classes

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2. R. J. Scollard, C.S.B. A List of Photographic Reproductions of Mediaeval Manuscripts. *Mediaeval Studies* Vol. 4 (1943) p. 126-38 and Vol. 5 (1944) p. 51-74.

Some Current Books and the Current Crisis

By JOHN J. O'CONNOR,
Washington, D. C.

I should like to make two preliminary observations. The first is that I am now in government service in Washington—quite a change from the placid twelve-hour-a-week schedule of a history professor—and hence my reading, for the most part, has been decidedly haphazard. Secondly, as my work involves the study and analysis of a great deal of battlefield information, my limited spare-time reading has not included the diaries of our able war correspondents.

But there is another and more basic aspect of the global war-time scene which has attracted the earnest attention of men and women in widely separated fields of activity. I refer to the contemporary crisis in morals. This is popularly regarded as a deadly and dreary subject, but it becomes exciting and newsworthy when we find it discussed in current books by an ex-Marine, by the wife of a newspaper publisher, by a former American diplomat, by England's former Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by three New England historians.

One does not usually think of handsome and dynamic Eric Johnston, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, as a former member of the Marine Corps. He is identified in

the public mind as a liberal, engaging and convincing spokesman for Big Business. Yet Johnston once served as a Marine captain in China. He was accidentally injured in a street brawl and, seriously wounded, was invalided home. He got his start in the business world by peddling vacuum cleaners from door to door. (This was in the days when you could actually buy a shiny new vacuum cleaner without much trouble). His next step forward was to repair cleaners. Today he is president of an electrical supply business in Seattle which employs approximately 2,000 busy people.

Johnston is primarily interested in the preservation of the private enterprise system and in his *America Unlimited*² he expresses the conviction that, economically speaking, this nation, far from having reached the last frontier, is on the threshold of phenomenal achievement—provided, we don't turn collectivist. It is therefore surprising that in a book written primarily in defense of the American capitalist system, Johnston should devote an entire chapter to the moral crisis.

Johnston characterizes the two decades between World War I and World War II as a period of cynicism and little faith. The torture and persecution of racial and religious minorities abroad were early alarm signals of the new moral barbar-

1. Digest of a talk given before the Washington-Maryland-Virginia Unit of the Catholic Library Association at Dumbarton College, Washington, D. C., on November 18, 1944.

2. Doubleday, 1944. 254p.

ism. Yet we did not protest. We merely looked the other way—as if injustice, wherever perpetrated, was no concern of ours. Johnston then drives home the unpleasant truth that the degradation of morals has not been confined solely to totalitarian countries. In some degree, indeed, it has tainted the whole world. Johnston concludes by underscoring the fact that, even among us here in the United States, there have been symptoms of moral weakness and decline.

Agnes E. Meyer, wife of the editor and publisher of the *Washington Post*, goes one step farther and asserts that we have been, and are, shockingly indifferent to the suffering and distress that are evident in our own communities. Mrs. Meyer recently visited twenty-seven different war centers. Summing up her impressions in *Journey Through Chaos*,³ she asserts that we have become morally confused as a people, and possess neither the human sympathy nor the corporate will to put our inner convictions into practice. Local communities have done much to deal with the chaotic situation brought on by the sudden influx of thousands of workers into war production areas. But Mrs. Meyer saw ample evidence of an atmosphere of ruthlessness, of catch as catch can, of the devil take the hindmost and the weakest, which implies a deterioration in the national character.

The crisis in morals in the economic and social fields is apparent also in the field of diplomacy. A former professor of mine, William Franklin Sands, has just published a very disturbing book called *Our Jungle Diplomacy*.⁴ Mr. Sands traces what he believes to be the roots of the

Pearl Harbor disaster to their source: the ineptitude of our State Department that goes back many generations and has not yet been remedied. He maintains that for the past forty years our diplomacy has been lost in a jungle of its own creation. Yet if we were blind, if we had reached such a point that it seemed perfectly proper to "civilize" small nations at the point of a bayonet, other nations, particularly Japan, were making careful notes on our imperialistic activities in the Pacific and Latin America.

"Even today," Mr. Sands observes, "it seldom occurs to us that when we offered our way of life to others at the end of a Springfield or a Krag, we were doing the very thing that so outraged our sensibilities when it was attempted by Mussolini in Africa, or by Hitler in Europe, or by the Japs in Asia. Every turning point in the path of Japanese expansion has been marked by an American precedent: to Korea the path was marked Hawaii; to Manchuria it was marked Panama."

A few words now about the crisis in morals and Christianity. Many of you have probably read Lord Vansittart's *Lessons of My Life*,⁵ a garrulous and extremely one-sided book but also a highly influential book both in England and in the United States. Lord Vansittart is convinced that it is an illusion to differentiate between the German Right, Center or Left, or German Catholics or Protestants, or German workers or capitalists. He is of the opinion that they are all alike and that the only hope for a peaceful Europe is a crushing and violent military defeat of Germany, followed by a couple of generations of re-education controlled by the United States.

3. Harcourt, 1944. 388p.

4. University of North Carolina Press, 1944. 250p.

5. London, Hutchinson, 1943. 236p.

What particularly interested me in Lord Vansittart's work were the following remarks concerning German Catholicism: "If Bismark went to Canossa, German Catholicism came to Potsdam, and it has stayed there. Not very much less than Luther and the Lutherans, the German Center and its bishops were Germans first and Catholics second; internationalism always yields to nationalism in Germany."

A harsh judgment? An unjust judgment? Well, Lord Vansittart is a hard man. My own opinion is that German Catholicism, for all its sturdy virtues, closely resembled American Catholicism in that it was isolated, self-centered and unable to exert any considerable influence upon the thought and action of the nation as a whole. It had lost contact, particularly with the urban proletariat. Under these circumstances, the rise of Hitler was possible.

American Catholicism has not journeyed to Potsdam but to the Merchandise Mart. Yet for all its apparent preoccupation with material things, there is evident in alert Catholic circles today a positive uneasiness. You will find it expressed, for example, in the concluding chapters of the third volume of the monumental *History of the Archdiocese of Boston (1604-1943)*⁶ by Robert H. Lord, John E. Sexton and Edward T. Harrington. So much accomplished in New England—and so much that is still lacking. The heart of the problem, which is a matter of growing concern not only to Catholics in the United States but in other countries as well, is that our total Catholic resources—membership, schools, press, and radio—were not sufficient to avert the tragedy of World War II. We are

living in revolutionary times. The global revolution has by no means spent itself. If our Catholic spirit and resources remain unchanged, if they receive no substantial increment, how will it be humanly possible to avert World War III? That is the crux of the contemporary crisis in morals.

So what? What are we supposed to do about it? What solutions are being offered?

In the economic field, I would first suggest a reading or re-reading of Belloc's prophetic *Servile State*,⁷ first published, I believe, in 1913, and his more recent *Restoration of Property*.⁸ I would then look into Friedrich A. Hayek's brilliant study, *The Road to Serfdom*.⁹ Socialism is becoming increasingly popular these days. So is the ideology of overall planning, centralization and collectivism. The passion for security, even at the sacrifice of freedom, is very strong. Dr. Hayek, a world-famous European economist, warns us that Britain and America are today in their thinking where Germany was a quarter of a century ago. If the present ideological trend continues, and it is much stronger in Britain than here, Dr. Hayek believes that we will arrive, sooner or later, in the totalitarian camp.

In the field of social relations, I would make a special plea for Father John La Farge's *Race Question and the Negro*.¹⁰ A few days ago I received a letter from a friend in Chicago telling me of the burning of a house on the South Side. It seems that the house, situated in a white neighborhood, had been bought by a Negro family. The plumbing fixtures

7. Constable, 1927. 188p.

8. Sheed & Ward, 1936. 144p.

9. London, Routledge, 1944. 184p.

10. Longmans, 1943. 315p.

6. Sheed & Ward, 1944. 3 vol.

were removed, the house was thoroughly wrecked, and then set on fire. The immediate importance of the interracial question, and the urgent necessity for the solution of this critical problem on the basis of Christian principles, cannot be emphasized too strongly.

The restoration of a Christian social order will inevitably demand thoroughgoing reforms in the field of education. The late Dr. Edward Leen has this to say, and it is a memorable statement, in the Introduction to his challenging *What Is Education?*¹¹:

"Men suffering under the present agony, and resolved to secure coming generations against it, are busy planning a reorganization of the world that will effectively prevent a recurrence of the evil. They are right in thinking that the core of all such reorganization is education. But they do not seem to have learned from history that it is only a Christian education of youth that can save the world from disorder. If the history of Christendom from the beginning is closely studied in the light of ultimate causes, it will be found that the origin of the social disintegration which has reached its climax in our days is that successive generations of European men have striven to set the profession and practice of the Christian faith on a philosophy of living alien to the Christian ethos. The salvation of the world lies in uniting the practice of the True Faith to an outlook on life consistent with that faith. It is the function of a Christian education to impart to the young such an outlook, or, in other words, such a philosophy of life. It does not need prophetic vision to foresee that, unless the recon-

struction of society aims at this, there are many now living who will survive to see another world cataclysm surpassing the present one in the immensity of its horror and ruin."

The reconstruction of the social order demands, in addition to knowledge, sanctity. We need very much to deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives for the herculean task that confronts us. Father Bernard J. Kelly's *The Sacraments of Daily Life*¹² will help us to draw closer to the Source of all wisdom. The normal path of progress in spirituality—that is to say, of growth in grace—is the sacraments. To grow in grace we should understand the sacraments, cast our prayer in a sacramental mould, live and act as the grace of the sacraments inspires us.

Live and Act. Knowledge, sanctity, and then—action. A few years ago, in addressing the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association, I stated that editors and journalists had failed miserably either to understand the meaning of Catholic Action, or to explain and interpret it correctly, or to practice it in any real sense. I am still of that opinion. The apostolate of the laity, under the direction and supervision of the hierarchy, is the most important apostolate of the twentieth century. We are all called to it. In the words of Pope Pius XI, "Catholic Action is absolutely inseparable from the Christian life of the laity." The basic work on the subject is still Mgr. Luigi Civardi's *A Manual of Catholic Action*.¹³

All of us can co-operate in building a better world—the mother in the home, the teacher in the classroom, the business executive and stenographer in the

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11. Sheed & Ward, 1944. 288p.

12. Sheed & Ward, 1943. 291p.

13. Sheed & Ward, 1935. 247p.

Catholic Press Month

The Catholic librarian should find a stimulating challenge to action in the Christmas message of our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII. A challenge that should more vitally animate library activity during Catholic Press Month and throughout the months that follow. Though his position is distinct from that of the formally authorized Statesman, the Catholic librarian should be aware of his potentiality to effect the good expected of those "select" men who, while not directly responsible for the government of the "masses", are, nevertheless, a powerful force toward awakening those masses from their apathetic drifting, to a sense of dignity as a "people" personally responsible for the direction of human affairs.

Our Holy Father underlined the Church's mission "to announce to the world, which is looking for better and more perfect forms of democracy, the highest and most needed message there can be: the dignity of man, the call to be sons of God". The Church is admirably fulfilling her mission, and men in general are questioning rights and striving to trace responsibility for world chaos in an effort to restore peace and security. Men, however, are confused by the variant and contradictory theories that clamor for a hearing and demand judgment, and in their confusion even Catholics fail to comprehend adequately the true solution so clearly outlined in the Christmas message.

The Catholic press is the mouthpiece of the Church today and provides a strongly coordinated expression of the mind of the Church on all the major

political and social problems that threaten individual liberty and world order. The Catholic librarian should become the most active apostle of the press. It is not enough that he gather and preserve Catholic publications; his library should become the guidance center for the questioning layman. His efforts should be consciously directed toward bringing to the reader the message of the Church. He must call attention to the books, pamphlets, articles and editorials currently published that persistently uphold the immutable doctrines of justice and charity against the unstable and false theories of those who very often are guided by ambition, selfishness and prejudice. These false theories are daily propagated in the secular press, and only the discerning layman can separate the chaff from the wheat. The Church's attitude must be made known to the man in the street to dispel his bewilderment and foster that enlightened public opinion which is essential in the plan for reconstruction as presented by our Holy Father.

During February, librarians and teachers sponsor elaborate exhibits of Catholic periodicals and conduct special programs in order to acquaint Catholics with the broad scope and powerful influence of the Catholic press. Such activity is indeed praiseworthy, but it is only the beginning. If Catholic Press Month activity does nothing more than rouse in the Catholic a feeling of pride for the accomplishments of his Church, or an enthusiasm for competing in the drive to increase

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CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK, 1944

Richard James Hurley, Chairman

From the national viewpoint, an inventory of activities of the 1944 Catholic Book Week reveals two interesting and important facts—the great and growing enthusiasm from numerous sources and the still unrealized potentialities which challenge us. The 1944 Catholic Book Week was featured by these activities:

1. A slogan contest participated in by 4,064 students from some 653 schools in this country and Canada. A total of 12,927 slogans was submitted. Missouri led with 3,046 slogans, followed by Pennsylvania, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin, Washington, D. C., Maryland, and Massachusetts. Forty-four out of forty-eight states participated. Prizes of a subscription to the Pro Parvulis Book Club and \$25 in cash were distributed. Our thanks to the innumerable librarians and teachers who made it such a success. The prize-winner was Miss Jeanette Hobbs of the Lillis High School, Kansas City, Missouri.

2. A poster contest run jointly by the Bruce Publishing Company and the Catholic Library Association with approximately six hundred entries from this country and Canada. First prize of \$75 went to Miss Ruth Finke of Mount St. Joseph College, Ohio, and second of \$25 to Miss Betty Anne Rowland of Notre Dame College, South Euclid, Ohio. All city editors of Ohio papers were contacted by the Bruce Company in this connection. The two Chicago poster winners were presented with their honorable mentions book certificate at an All-Chicago Catholic Book Week rally at Providence High School. Three hundred posters were displayed at this celebration while others were sent to Milwaukee for their Week.

The prize-winning posters were on exhibit at the Department of Library Science, Catholic University of America, during the Institute on Elementary School Libraries. In the October issue of the *Catholic School Journal* an entire page was devoted to pictures and descriptions of the winners while the November issue carried the official poster as a supplement and included two Catholic Book Week plays. Seventy-five electros of the poster were sent to Catholic magazines, the book trade and library magazines and sixty-five mats to Catholic newspapers. In addition, approximately one thousand posters were sent out to public and Catholic librarians in the larger cities. Eight hundred exhibits were issued, this including two copies of the poster, *Between the Lines*, the *Catholic School Journal* and the *Author; Author!* pamphlets. Also, 2500 posters went to book dealers through the country. The Association owes a large debt of gratitude to the Bruce Publishing Company and its publicity director, Miss Marian Dunne.

3. Thirteen of the regional units of the Association appointed special Chairmen for Catholic Book Week—these Chairmen to constitute the standing committee for Catholic Book Week. Many units used the theme of the Week for their autumn meetings—New York, New Jersey, Washington, Maryland, Virginia, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee and Chicago. The Mid-West Unit meeting at Wichita, Kansas, centered its two-day program around Catholic Book Week activities with the Chairman of the Week present as guest speaker. The Pittsburgh Unit held a Catholic Book Fair at Our Lady of Mercy Academy; the Wisconsin Unit issued a 36-page mimeographed bulletin of skits and suggestions for elementary

schools; the Washington-Maryland-Virginia Unit distributed five thousand booklist bookmarks through the public and parochial libraries, organized through the Catholic Daughters of America, five school libraries in Maryland, placed window displays in prominent store windows, and in Baltimore gave five radio broadcasts in addition to an all-city assembly, an exhibit at the Enoch Pratt Library and other activities. These notes are but samplings of a few Units.

4. Articles appeared in the October 27 issue of the *Young Catholic Messenger* which goes to most Catholic schools, in the November issue of the *Catholic Library World*, in the November *Monthly Message* of the National Council of Catholic Women and in the *Faculty Adviser*. Notices appeared in the *Library Journal*, *Wilson Library Bulletin*, *American Library Association Bulletin* and *Publishers Weekly*. The NCWC News Service carried a story which found its way into many diocesan papers.

5. Approximately five hundred requests for information were answered personally by the Chairman and in the majority of cases a three-page bulletin of ideas was included. These requests came from public and Catholic schools, public libraries, Catholic lending libraries of various types, Newman Clubs, Sodalities, bookstores and other organizations.

6. For the first time the Association was a member of the Sponsoring Committee for National Book Week and shared in its work.

While all this sounds impressive, a look at the decalogue in the article: *Postscript to Catholic Book Week* in the January 1944 issue of the *Catholic Library World* reveals but 50% of the program accomplished. What of the balance?

The *Catholic Book Week Handbook* should be available for 1945. In manuscript form it approximates two hundred pages of tried methods and materials with many excellent photographs. Unfortunate circumstances prevented its appearance in 1944.

The *Second Supplement to A Reading List for Catholics* should also be ready in 1945 after the compilation of 1944 has been brought up to date. Again unfortunate circumstances delayed its appearance in time for Catholic Book Week. We are badly in need of a good modern Catholic booklist.

With these available, it will be possible to develop a Publicity Kit which in addition would contain a copy of the official poster, bookmarks, book jackets and other publicity materials. In this connection, neither the Association nor the past Chairmen have had the facilities for taking care of such publicity. It is significant that National Book Week looks for its physical resources to the R. R. Bowker Company. Could we not interest some Catholic publishers in a like manner to assist us?

By starting earlier, a much more comprehensive publicity program could be developed with articles in all professional and Catholic magazines, a slogan and poster adopted by springtime, Unit plans made before the end of school terms in June.

A closer correlation should be worked out with National Book Week where it is now felt that we are competing with rather than supplementing their work. We might have our celebration during the first week of November, note on our poster that we also celebrate National Book Week and advertise their publicity material.

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News and Notes

SPECIMEN BALLOT FOR THE 1945 ELECTION

VICE-PRESIDENT (President-Elect) (Vote for One)

- ☐ Brother Thomas, F.S.C.
Cardinal Hayes Library
Manhattan College
New York, N. Y.
- ☐ Reverend Harry C. Koenig
Feehan Memorial Library
Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary
Mundelein, Illinois
- ☐ Reverend Irenaeus Herscher, O.F.M.
Friedsam Memorial Library
Saint Bonaventure's College
Saint Bonaventure, New York
- ☐

SECRETARY-TREASURER (Vote for One)

- ☐ Miss Dorothy E. Lynn
University of Scranton
Scranton, Pennsylvania
- ☐

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Terms Expiring in 1951 (Vote for Two)

- ☐ Reverend Colman J. Farrell, O.S.B.
Abbey Library, Saint Benedict
College
Atchison, Kansas

- ☐ Brother J. Sylvester, F.S.C.
Christian Brothers College Library
Saint Louis, Missouri
- ☐ Brother David
University of Portland
Portland, Oregon
- ☐ Sister M. Norberta, I.H.M.
Marywood College
Scranton, Pennsylvania
- ☐
- ☐

The above ballot is a copy of the official one sent to members; it is not to be substituted for the official copy. The marked ballot should be returned before March 23, 1945, in the envelope provided, addressed to the Chairman of the Elections Committee, Brother E. Ignatius, F.S.C., La Salle College, Twentieth Street and Olney Avenue, Philadelphia 41, Pennsylvania.

Submitted by the Committee on Nominations:

Mother M. Dowling, R.S.C.J.,
Chairman

Reverend Charles Kruger, S.J.
Brother J. Sylvester, F.S.C.
Sister Mary Julice, S.S.N.D.
Miss Eleanor Baer

UNIT NOTES

The Pittsburgh Unit sponsored a subscription campaign for diocesan papers in

Erie, Altoona and Pittsburgh for Catholic Press Month. Sister Melania was chairman of the activity. The contest was open to all high schools and colleges in western Pennsylvania. Librarians were in charge of the contest in their respective schools, notifying the chairman of the total subscriptions received. The Unit also sponsored publicity for the Annual Short Story Contest conducted by the Literary Awards Foundation of the Catholic Press Association.

* * *

The following officers were elected for the year 1945 at the annual meeting of the Minnesota-Dakota Unit held at Cretin High School, Saint Paul, on November twenty-fourth: Chairman, Sister M. Clarice, S.S.N.D., St. Agnes High School, St. Paul; Vice-chairman, Sister Avila, C.S.J., St. Joseph's Academy, St. Paul. Sister Mary Inez, C.S.J., Librarian of the College of St. Catherine, is permanent secretary of the regional group.

Among the guest speakers: Reverend Louis Gales, Managing Editor of *The Catholic Digest*, addressed the general assembly on "Inter-American Understanding", emphasizing the role of the Spanish edition of the *Digest* in promoting better cooperation between the faithful of the two continents. Sister M. Camille, College of Saint Teresa, presented a paper on "French Contributors to Catholic Thought". Recent parish library activity in the diocese of Winona was described by Mrs. Mark Gorman, Fairmont, who is Diocesan chairman of Libraries and Literature, Winona Council of Catholic Women.

Sectional meetings were held in the afternoon. The college section heard Dr. Elizabeth Ann Murphy, College of Saint Teresa, speak on "Developing the Cath-

olic Mind". The Reverend Benjamin Stein, O.S.B., Librarian of Saint John's University, Collegeville, presided. The high school group heard Miss Clara Glenn, Librarian of Saint Thomas Military Academy, discuss "Books on Latin America", and Sister Avila, C.S.J., Saint Joseph's Academy, St. Paul, who spoke on "Vitamins for Lessons on Books and Libraries". The secondary school program was arranged by Sister Mariel, C.S.J., Librarian of Holy Angels Academy, Minneapolis. In the elementary section, Sister St. Hugh, C.S.J., Principal of the Aloysianum School, Olivia, Minnesota, read a paper, "Character Formation Through Books", a consideration of the application of bibliotherapy to the behavior problems of childhood. "New and Old Books for Children" was the subject of a talk by Miss Della McGregor, chief of the juvenile division of the Saint Paul Public Library and well-known authority on children's literature.

Among the attractive exhibits, a miniature library was displayed and also a model of Santa Barbara mission, which was used in conjunction with books on Indian life. Sister M. Wilfrid, O.S.F., Principal of St. Peter's School, was chairman of the section.

* * *

The February meeting of the Western New York Catholic Librarians Conference was held at Canisius College, Saturday, February tenth. Miss Dorothy Bryan, editor of children's books at Dodd, Mead and Company and editor of the children's section on the Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee, addressed the general meeting. Her topic was "Editing Books on Vocations". Sister Mary Consuela, S.S.J., spoke on "The Use of the Library as an Art Medium". In the Elementary School

Section, Miss Gertrude Hannon of the Ives Branch Library, discussed "Libraries and Education". Best sellers were reviewed and discussed in the high school department.

* * *

Projects for Catholic Press Month have been reported for St. Ursula Academy, Seton High School, Purcell High School and Notre Dame Academy in the February News Letter of the Greater Cincinnati Unit. Exhibits, surveys of reading interests and questionnaires were featured among the various activities.

LIBRARIANS NEEDED

Librarians are needed for war service positions. In a bulletin published by the U. S. Civil Service Commission, opportunities for serving in one of the naval stations located throughout the country, or in one of the Veterans Administration hospitals, or in a Federal agency in Washington, D. C., are described. Those who meet the requirements may secure government employment as Librarian at \$2433 a year; Library Assistant at \$2190 a year. Full information is included in the bulletin. Applications should be filed with the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

ERRATUM

In the article entitled "The Hispanic Foundation of the Library of Congress" published in the November issue of *The Catholic Library World*, it was stated that the *Handbook of Latin American Studies* is edited at the Hispanic Foundation. In correction: the volume is compiled by a number of scholars in the United States and Latin America and is published by the Joint Committee on Latin American Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Research

Council, and the Social Science Research Council. The eighth volume of the *Handbook* is scheduled for publication in February.

VETERANS VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

A report on the operation of fifty experimental Community Adult Counseling Services established in seven states under the leadership of the United States Office of Education is featured in the February, 1945, issue of *Occupations, The Vocational Guidance Journal*. Reprints of the report may be obtained for fifty cents from the National Vocational Guidance Association, 525 West 120th Street, New York, 27, New York.

CATHOLIC WRITERS NEEDED

Mr. Frank Bruce of the Bruce Publishing Company, in his annual analysis of Catholic book sales, called attention to the scarcity of Catholic writers. Mr. Bruce pointed out that the layman has entered the Catholic book-buying field, which formerly was limited almost exclusively to the clergy. Nor is his interest confined to the so-called good Catholic book. His is an intelligent demand "for books whose subjects may parallel, but whose moral content will far excel, 'today's 'best smellers'."

Mr. Bruce stated that "of the twenty-five million Catholics in the United States, less than ten per cent are being touched or influenced by even occasional exposure to a Catholic book". The demand of 1945 will be the call for more and more Catholic authors to expand the volume of every type of Catholic writing; but especially fiction. The greatest problem which will confront the Catholic publisher will be to have the books where they should be, when the people want them.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, SCRANTON, PA.

For the Period—September, 1943 - August, 1944

BALANCE, AUGUST 31, 1943

On Deposit	\$ 104.09	
Petty Cash	3.94	\$ 108.03

RECEIPTS:

Memberships, 1943-1944

From \$3.00 Memberships	1,284.35	
From \$5.00 Memberships	2,933.50	
Special Dues	330.00	
Arrearages	21.00	4,568.85

Prepaid Memberships

1944-1945	120.00	120.00
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Catholic Library World

Advertising	473.81	
Single Copies	51.90	525.71

Donations

10.00

Sale of Publications

C.C.A. 1941-42 Series.....	31.99	
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Reading List for

Catholics	30.31	
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R.L.C. Supplement

19.03

Book of Catholic Authors

First Series	9.96	
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Second Series	15.90	
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List of Subject Headings..	18.96	
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Father Brown's:

Libraries & Literature....	77.68	
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Novels and Tales.....	25.97	
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Poison and Balm.....	28.28	
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Seminarian's Reading List	.60	258.68
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Miscellaneous	36.94	
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TOTAL	\$5,628.21	
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Catholic Periodical Index

Editor's Salary	1,035.00	1,035.00
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Catholic Library Association

Sec.-treas. Salary	1,500.00	1,500.00
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Office Supplies	26.46	26.46
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Telephone	84.57	84.57
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Reading List for Catholics	27.19	27.19
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Book of Catholic Authors	31.82	31.82
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Printing

3000 Membership		
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Envelopes	27.00	
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5100 Membership		
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Folders	71.00	
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200 Reprints (That		
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Index)	6.25	
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5000 No. 10 Envelopes....	24.75	
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200 Reprints (Noyes)....	6.75	
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500 Cat. Envelopes.....	7.85	143.60
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Miscellaneous

Special Mailing	30.00	
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P. O. Rent	10.00	
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Typist	15.00	
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File Cards	2.00	
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Bond	5.00	
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Mailing Deposit	25.00	
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Express	6.76	
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Addressograph Repairs ...	7.46	
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Traffic Lights	3.50	
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Best Sellers Refund.....	3.25	
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Binding	1.75	
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Bank Charges	7.58	
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Travel (Hotel Res.).....	2.50	
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Catholic Subject Head....	6.55	
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Audit	15.00	141.35
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Petty Cash Expenditures

Stamps	90.98	
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Travel	53.42	
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Supplies	3.84	
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Freight and Express.....	2.59	
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Miscellaneous	18.30	169.13
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\$4,813.03

Balance, June 1, 1944

On Deposit	801.37	
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Petty Cash	13.81	815.18
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\$5,628.21

DISBURSEMENTS:

Catholic Library World

Printing (Oct-May)	\$1,653.91	\$1,653.91
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UNITED STATES HISTORY FILM

Thirty-three filmstrips which deal with contemporary life in the United States were released this month by the American Council on Education. The filmstrips were produced by the Council under the direction of Milton R. Tinsley. Subjects include documentary treatments of historical studies, national parks, and forests, important aspects of flood control, irrigation, harnessing water power, rural electrification and soil conservation, health topics, housing and the schools.

CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH

(Concluded from page 147)

subscriptions, the program planned will have no permanent value. The only effective promotion of the Catholic press is that which brings the layman to realize that his spiritual leaders are seriously concerned with his immediate, everyday problems; that they are ever watchful and admonitory against the violation of his dignity as man—as a man destined to be a son of God. The only successful activity is that which leads to action; that which awakens the individual to his responsibility as a thinking man; that which opens our Catholic publications to a reader who is seeking the guidance to be found therein.

CATHOLIC BOOK WEEK, 1944

(Concluded from page 149)

All these plans should be in the hands of the Chairman and here let me urge the fullest cooperation with the new Chairman, Brother J. Sylvester, F.S.C. Librarian, Christian Brothers High School, St. Louis, Missouri. Unity of design and accomplishment can only be obtained when one person has full responsibility and power for its development.

Ave atque vale!

SOME CURRENT BOOKS

(Concluded from page 146)

office, the worker in his place on the assembly line, the soldier in his fox-hole, the writer in his study, the librarian ministering to the intellectual and spiritual hunger of many souls.

By prayer and personal example, by wise and friendly counsel, the librarian has a vital and indispensable role in establishing the reign of Christ upon earth. For it is the high privilege of librarians everywhere, in this badly muddled world of ours, to lead men and women, through books, to Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

THE WALLS ARE LINED WITH BOOKS

(Continued from page 142)

which were subdivided and rearranged on the basis of their use in the library. After professional training at the Universities of Toronto and Michigan, the present Librarian recommended that the library use a combination of the Library of Congress Classification with the *Alternative Classification for Catholic Books* compiled by Jeanette Murphy Lynn for the Catholic Library Association. Library of Congress schedules are never changed, but a few changes have been found desirable in the *Alternative Classification*, e.g. the class heading "Western Authors, 869-1564" has been shortened to "869-1450/1500" and the following heading correspondingly lengthened. When there is a place for a title in both classifications, preference is given to the Library of Congress except for Catholic authors up to 1800, Theology and Church History.

PUTS BOOKS TO WORK

The regulations governing the use of the library have been kept to a minimum.

It is open to staff, students of the Institute and scholars who are introduced by a member of the Faculty. All who have the use of the library are given access to the stacks and may borrow books. A liberal circulation policy places no limit on either the length of a loan or the number of books that may be borrowed. The Reading Room is not under constant supervision and patrons are on their honour to sign for their books. The system does not work perfectly, at times its breakdown is annoying to say the least, but the losses are less costly than full-time supervision. At present about seventy people use the library regularly and perhaps as many more make occasional use of it throughout the year.

The ease with which books may be borrowed is characteristic of the spirit of the library. The books which line the walls and fill the stack are for study and research. It is a laboratory, not a storehouse. Books are instruments, not museum pieces. If they are finely printed, so much the better; if they are rare, the library rejoices in its good fortune; but its duty is to put them into the hands of students who can use them.

KEEPING UP WITH TODAY

(Continued from page 139)

place on the shelf of even the smallest library and stays there.

It is true that the sight of many books being removed from the shelves may cause the librarian some qualms—for, after all, she has been taught to recognize the value of the book, but the results obtained will more than compensate for the momentary twinge that discarding may bring. The gaps resulting from this weeding will awaken her to the realization that all was not as it should have

been with her collection, and the new material which she will of necessity add to replace the old, will increase immeasurably the enjoyment of those who come to the library as well as the librarian herself.

Emerson held that "consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds . . . With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do. He may as well concern himself with the shadow on the wall."⁶

Banish from our libraries the shadows of the obsolete, the worthless, the dull; give to our libraries spirit and animation with books that delight our senses, breathe life, inspire our minds, and fortify our souls. Do not let the hobgoblin of consistency rule your library, make it a cemetery of literature; join the assembly line and move with the times.

MARY FABYAN WINDEATT

(Concluded from page 134)

Miss Windeatt was born in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 22, 1910. She was made an Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music in 1926; received the degree of Licentiate of Music from Mt. St. Vincent College, Halifax, in 1927, an A.B. from San Diego State College in 1934, and an M.A. from Columbia in 1940. Her future gives promise of constantly increased accomplishment.

Bibliography

- Saints in the sky.* Sheed & Ward. 1941.
- Sing joyfully.* Catholic Literary Guild. 1942.
- Lad of Lima.* Sheed & Ward. 1942.
- My name is Thomas.* The Grail. 1943.
- Hero of the hills.* Sheed & Ward. 1943.
- Angel of the Andes.* St. Anthony's Guild. 1943.
- Little queen.* The Grail. 1944.
- Little sister.* The Grail. 1944.
- Warrior in white.* Sheed & Ward. 1944.

6. Emerson, R. W. *Essays, First series: "Self Reliance"*.

Book Reviews

The guide to Catholic literature. Edited by Walter Romig. Vol. Two. 1940-1944. Detroit, Walter Romig & Co., (1944). 629p. \$10.00.

Slightly less than four years ago it was my pleasant assignment to review *The Guide to Catholic literature, 1888-1940*¹ of which the above title under review is the first supplement. In the succeeding years I have had many an opportunity to thank silently the enterprise and courage of Mr. Romig in publishing *The guide* which, without a doubt, is a considerable portion of the foundation of Catholic bibliography. Librarians, in fact anyone connected with books, will renew their thanks for the publication of this supplement.

The long subtitle reveals accurately the scope of the contents:

An author-title-subject index is one straight alphabetical order, with biographical and critical notes and references, of books and pamphlets by Catholics or of particular Catholic interest, published originally or in revised edition, in any language and in any country, during the four years, January 1, 1940 to January 1, 1944.

Even with this announcement, the compiler is a bit too modest, for a close examination of the work will uncover many titles published before 1940 (e.g., look under Baring, Belloc, Chesterton, etc.) and a few 1944 titles. His primary method of compilation has been that of using book reviews (and leading articles about Catholic authors) in approximately fifty Catholic periodicals in English and French from which were taken the author, title, publisher, date and price (later supplemented from other sources to give complete information) and often an abstract giving and critical evaluation of the work in question. Generally where reviewers differed in their opinion of the book, the compiler gives extracts from the varying opinions; see, for example, the reviews of Greene's *Labyrinthine*

ways, Nostradamus, Cronin's *Keys of the kingdom*, Kossak's *Blessed are the meek*, Maynard's *Story of American Catholicism*, Perkins' *Your Catholic language*, Sackville-West's *Eagle and the dove* and Sylvester's *Dearly beloved*. In addition to extracts, citations to other major reviews are included. Occasionally where we would expect a long annotation or extract, e.g., on the Confraternity edition of the New Testament, we may not find an adequate note but that happens rarely.

The number of books printed in foreign languages is surprisingly large, showing that Mr. Romig uses the scholarly as well as the popular Catholic periodicals. Then, too, in the scholarly field we find many inclusions of theses, even some that have appeared in microfilm editions only, e.g., Wade's *Comparison of the De Magistro of St. Augustine*. Books published in England often have variant titles from the American editions; these, too, are carefully noted, e.g., Laverly's *Alone we embark* became *Touched by the thorn* in America.

One of Mr. Romig's stated objectives is that of covering books "of particular Catholic interest," even if not by Catholic authors; thus we find included Rumball-Petre's *America's first bibles* even though little of it deals with Catholic Bibles; Clapesattle's *Doctors Mayo* (a case in which neither Miss Clapesattle nor the Doctors Mayo were Catholic) wherein is described St. Mary's Hospital conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis; and Schermerhorn's *On the trail of the eight-pointed cross*, a study of the Knights Hospitallers by a non-Catholic.

For each author is given a considerable amount of biographical material with further reference to *American Catholic Who's Who 1944-45* when the author has been included therein. There are also some biographical sketches of persons who are not primarily authors, e.g., of Ade Bethune, the illustrator. Mr. Romig has also combed the magazines for articles about the

1. *Catholic Library World* 12:278-81. May, 1941.

authors mentioned in his work, e.g., under Chesterton are references to eleven periodical articles of biography and criticism. Occasionally with an author whose name might be difficult to pronounce we are given the correct pronunciation, e.g., Strzetelski (pronounced Shetelski).

One could continue for several more pages with illustrations of what this volume of *The guide to Catholic literature* has to offer. I would not say that it reads like a novel but certainly its content is far more valuable and even more fascinating than that of most novels. There are some slight omissions, too, but one would indeed be a captious critic to emulate the few inconsistencies in assigning subject headings or the choice of headings that are too inclusive or too broad for easy handling (e.g. Reference Books) or the very occasional lapses of proof-reading.

Who should use this volume? It will be of primary value to every Catholic bookseller, every Catholic librarian of high-school level and above, every Catholic publisher, any person interested in books and authors. If you can't afford it now, buy a mite box and start saving pennies and nickels.

Eugene P. Willging

University of Scranton, Pa.

List of subject headings for small libraries, including practical suggestions for the beginner in subject heading work. By Minnie Earl Sears. 5th ed. Wilson, 1944. xxvi, 536p.

In a very real sense "books are weapons"! *The Standard Catalog for Public Libraries* and the *Cumulative Book Index* (both Wilson publications) are the bases of the revision policies of this popular subject headings list. As current book lists they indicate quite definitely the relationship that exists between book publishing today and activity on the assembly line. Scientists and technologists are the front line forces operative in our arsenals and on the supply lines of our armies. Changes in the nature and type of book publishing, in subject content and in purpose, are reflected in these bibliographies and, like our armaments, are inspired by issues hot from the headlines. To keep abreast of reader-demand the cataloger must have an accurate, up-to-the-need—in a word, an adequate current list of subject headings. And for the small and popular library this need is supplied by the Sears list.

The objective of this work, like so many of the Wilson publications, is cooperative cataloging,

which is the sharing of expert service with the inexpert, or with trained personnel working with limited and inadequate resources. Chiefly because of its "practical suggestions for the beginner in subject headings work" (cf. p. xi-xxvii) it is one of the accepted cataloging tools for students of Library Science.

The 1939 and the 1944 edition differ principally in terminology and in scope. Librarians are accustomed by now to the illusion of compression created by the war format. The new work, though appearing to be smaller, is actually increased by twenty pages of about two hundred new headings and cross references. These are largely concerned with the World War and related subjects. A meager selection serves to indicate this fact: *Aeronautical instruments; Aeronautics—Medical aspects;—Safety measures; Air bases, Military; Aircraft carriers; Baltic states; Meteorology in aeronautics; Radio—Censorship; and Radio operators.* In a few cases such as *Vocational guidance* the terminology is in agreement with the L.C. policy. Users of the fourth edition of Sears welcome this change for they have long questioned the wisdom of retaining the older entry, *Professions, Choice of.* Why the editors did not make a similar change in the case of *European war, 1914-1918* is a fact that many will query. World War II is entered under *World War, 1939-* with its forty-six subdivisions and cross references. The material on the first part of this war would be better integrated had the change been made to *World War, 1914-1918* which is the name of the war. Some of the combined headings, because of distinction in meaning, have broken down to particular aspects as evidenced by *International law and relations* which is now two headings, *International law*, and *International relations.*

The usual asides to the cataloger, explanatory notes, are not a new characteristic but this edition has about a hundred such. Under *Baltic states*, for example, is this statement:

(Used for books treating collectively of the following countries: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania)

and for combined headings like *Belief and doubt* there is this note:

(Works treating the subject from a philosophical standpoint are entered here. Works on religious belief are entered under Faith).

(Concluded on page 160)

New Books

BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Catholic Book Club—January

JORDAN, MAX. *Beyond all fronts*. Bruce, 1944. xiv, 386p. \$3.00.

Mr. Jordan has developed a synthesis of recent European history showing the operation of the underlying factors which brought on the present world catastrophe. Exaggerated nationalism, selfishness and national suspicion aided the development of totalitarianism; the Germans, as a race, are not responsible for the war since they, as well as other peoples, were enslaved by despotic masters; peace is possible, but only if it is a total reconciliation based, not alone on corrective punishment and retribution, but also on the extension of the principles of Christian magnanimity to the entire world. The book is highly recommended as a sane and correct discussion of important problems.

Catholic Literary Foundation—January

MAGARET, HELENE *Who walk in pride*. Bruce, 1945. viii, 280p. \$2.50.

This is an historical novel whose action occurs during the period of the French Revolution. Scenes are laid in France, Santo Domingo and America. It records the dissolution of an aristocratic colonial family whose position was built upon slavery and the eventual regeneration of one of the sons in America. A Catholic Literary Foundation choice, it is fairly well conceived and written and should appeal mostly to adults.

Art

ANDERSON, ROBERT GORDON. *The biography of a cathedral*. Longmans, 1944. xii, 496p. \$4.00.

To synopsise this book is to synopsise the history of the Church. Mr. Anderson has done a commendable work. He knows his Paris well, and those who love the beauty of the city on the Seine will love watching it grow. In many ways, Robert Gordon Anderson seems to have captured the subtle psychology of the Paris that was, and which, please God, will live again. There is the delightful West Bank; the Flower-Marts, the Book-Stalls; the endless stream of human drama—not merely as we knew them, but as they grew. And dominating all things else—the Cathedral.

Fidelis Rice, C.P.

WATKIN, E. I. *Catholic art and culture*. Sheed and Ward, 1944. 270p. \$4.50.

This book is built on the premise that every real Culture must be grounded in religion. Catholic Culture and Art is traced through a four-fold season: Spring, (which is the pagan Winter); Summer, Autumn, Winter. The seasons bear the following identification: Spring—from the origin of the Church to the Middle Ages; Summer—from the Middle Ages until the start of the Baroque; Autumn—the Baroque era; Winter—the Modern World. This classification is interesting but highly controversial. Certainly, many will not agree that the Baroque period was the finest flowering of Christian Art. Mr. Watkins has never been a total Scholastic, but perhaps might more accurately be called an Eclectic with Scholastic leanings. For that reason, it is easy to find expressions which do not agree with the Scholastic tradition, and which, to this reviewer at least, are not correct. This is a stimulating book and one well worth reading.

Fidelis Rice, C.P.

Juvenile

DUPLAIX, GEORGES. *Animal stories*. Simon & Schuster, 1944. 91p. \$1.50.

A series of sixty-four stories and rhymes about animals, everyone fresh and made doubly novel and interesting because of the superbly colored illustrations by Feodor Rojankovsky.

E. P. Willging

LIPPINCOTT, JOSEPH WHARTON. *Wilderness champion*. II. by Paul Broansom. Lippincott, 1944. 195p. \$2.00.

An author of notable animal stories and the foremost illustrator of the wild have united their talents in one of the best outdoor stories we have read. Reddy, the wolf dog, takes us into the Alberta and Wyoming wilds, the Florida sandhills and swamps; wolf, bear and fox hunts. Above all this adventure is the loyalty of dog and man. Here is a combination you can't beat for junior high school. Attractive format.

R. J. Hurley

WINDEATT, MARY FABYAN. *Little sister. The story of Blessed Imelda, patroness of First Communicants*. Illustrated by Mary Lou Sears. St. Meinrad, Indiana, The Grail, 1944. 94p. \$1.25.

The story of the miraculous dispensation that enabled the child, Sister Imelda, to receive our Lord in Holy Communion and of her ecstatic death, told in a childlike manner that will also appeal to adults.

WINDEATT, MARY FABYAN. *Warrior in white. The story of Blessed John Masias*. Sheed and Ward, 1944. 156p. \$1.75.

The heroic sanctity of the Dominican lay brother whose zealous charity won many souls for Christ will inspire the young American to whom this story presents a challenge.

Literature

JULIAN, CONSTANCE. *Shadows over English literature*. Bruce, 1944. 96p. \$1.50.

It is a tragic theme which the author traces through these studies of Cowper, Chatterton, Coleridge, Swinburne and Keats, Rossetti, Adam Gordon, and Arnold Bennett, of the New England School, of Emerson, Hawthorne, and Longfellow, and the modernists Lewis, Dreiser and Anderson. All are eager for truth, and each one in his own way appreciates the richness of the Medieval tradition, the beauty of Chuch architecture and of Church art; unhappily they fail to perceive that this beauty is but the external manifestation of a truly living faith. That is their tragedy. In the Catholicism of Francis Thompson and Cardinal Newman the author finds the reason why their art reached the fruition which the others failed to achieve. In her efforts to establish her thesis the author occasionally shoots beyond the mark. Her analysis of *The Ancient Mariner* as the account of Coleridge's gropings for religious truth seems somewhat far-fetched. Another instance is the evaluation of Arnold Bennett; the test is whether or not he wrote in harmony with Catholic dogma, which tells us in the words of Arthur Machan, the author's source, that "man is an awful soul confronted by the Source of all souls." Many an author has been aware of this truth without the consolations of the Catholic faith, though the author appears to imply the contrary. For the most part these essays are interesting in their approach, especially that on Francis Thompson.

Vincent P. Lee, S.J.

MERTON, THOMAS. *Thirty poems*. (Poets of the year). New Directions, 1944. \$1.00.

These poems, both religious and secular, reflect the breadth of the author's travels and the depth of his Catholic background. They are modern in their outlook and in their form. The war, nature, personal reflections, and by no means least, the mysteries of religion provide the themes. The imagery is frequently startling, though drawn from the simplest objects. This is a slim volume which contains much that is well worth reading.

Vincent P. Lee, S.J.

Periodicals

The Priest. v. 1, no. 1, Jan., 1945. Published by Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, Ind. \$2.00 per year for clergy and religious; \$1.00—seminarians.

The successor to *The Acolyte* made its initial appearance last month. In format similar to *Catholic Digest* it contains popular articles of primary interest to the clergy, e.g., "Social Action in the Parish." Large college and university libraries will find it of value.

E. P. Willging

Note: *The Catholic Bookman*, published by Walter Romig & Company, has ceased publication.

Philosophy

MARITAIN, JACQUES. *The dream of Descartes*. The Philosophical Library, 1945. 220p. \$3.00.

The Dream of Descartes is not a new study of Descartes. The first three chapters appeared as articles in 1920 and 1922; the fifth chapter is a lecture given in 1931. Only the fourth chapter on the Cartesian Proofs of God was written expressly for this volume. The author discusses the nature of Descartes' break with the past, and the consequences of this revolution both in the system of Descartes himself and in later systems influenced either positively or negatively by Descartes. M. Maritain stresses the point that the problems of Descartes were properly metaphysical problems; that Descartes was a metaphysician who disliked metaphysics.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

BRENNAN, ROBERT EDWARD, O.P. *History of psychology*. Macmillan, 1945. xvii, 277p. \$3.00.

There are many distinct sciences bearing the common name of psychology. Beginning with the earliest attempts at philosophy, Father Brennan has traced an outline history of these sciences. The first part deals with the Greek and medieval tradition in Psychology, with the contributions of Aristotle and St. Thomas receiving most attention. The later chapters deal with the "scientific psychologies" of the modern period. Here, despite brevity of treatment, Father Brennan has succeeded in presenting the content of these systems and also in relating them to the philosophical positions out of which they came.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

Religion

RUSSELL, REV. WILLIAM H., PH.D. *Jesus the Divine Teacher*. Kenedy, 1944. vii, 468p. \$3.00.

The purpose of this study of Christ as Teacher is to present the Person of Christ and His Teaching as an antidote to the cynicism that affects much of modern education. The first three chapters are devoted to the Person of Christ, His history from His own day to the

present, and the mystery of the Incarnation. Here are some excellent summaries of doctrine and of history, with plentiful references for readers who may wish to delve more deeply into any one point. The remaining three chapters comprise a study of the teaching of Christ from three points of view: His qualifications as a teacher, the content of His teaching, and the method of His teaching. The book will make a good handy reference for teachers of religion, and a good index and bibliography enhance this value.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

WOODS, RALPH L. (Ed.). *Behold the man*. Macmillan, 1944. 565p. \$3.00.

This is a collection of the writings and sayings of outstanding men and women of all ages about Jesus Christ. Before selecting a passage the editor required that it be interesting, written by an outstanding person, and cast in readable prose. Passages which plead for some particular creed or church were excluded; as were those which condemn or speak adversely of any creed or church. The selections, representing about four hundred authors, are placed under the general headings of Christ as Man, God, Teacher, Redeemer, Leader, Messiah, Reformer, and Prophet. While the editor has put much scholarly work into his collection, and has apparently tried to meet the conditions he has laid down for himself, nevertheless, we may wonder if such a task is not impossible. With Christians so divided among themselves how can one view be presented without giving offense to others? There are many passages from Catholic authors, including selections from the writings of various Popes. There are, however, many passages which must of necessity "give offense" to Catholics, and some few will be looked upon by them as nothing short of blasphemous.

Richard J. Neu, S.J.

Science

GILL, HENRY V., S.J. *Fact and fiction in modern science*. Fordham, 1944. 136p. \$2.50.

A series of essays on topics in the modern physical sciences where science and philosophy meet. These essays deal with the nature of scientific knowledge, the nature of matter, the origin and evolution of life, determinism, free will and other subjects. The final essay is a summary of a proof for the existence of God as the First Cause. Valuable for physicists and philosophers—somewhat difficult reading for the educated layman.

L. N. Wolf, Ph.D.

Sociology

STURZO, DON LUIGI. *The inner laws of society*. Kenedy, 1944. xxxii, 314p. \$3.50.

Don Luigi Sturzo offers "a new sociology," in which the basis of society is the human individual taken in his concreteness and com-

plexity. The consciousness of belonging to others, as others belong to him, projects the individual into society; makes him a social being. Societies in the concrete begin with individual social consciousness and have as their end the maximum development of the individual personality; and this development is inconceivable without society. There are three fundamental forms of society, the family, political society and religious society. No society is ever static but dynamic, and the sociological law that is constant in the historical process is that the whole of human activity is a continuous process of reform, correction and integration of what is by what should be. It might be more accurate to describe this book as an essay in social theory rather than as "a new sociology." It will abundantly repay the time spent in reading it, and is recommended especially to those interested in exploring the middle ground between social philosophy and sociology.

Charles Denecke, S.J.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Concluded from page 157)

Expansion has reached out to subdivided and inverted headings, too, with many notes and cross references. When the listed term is a subdivision only it, and the note following it, are written in italics. Refer from's are generously provided both as *see* and as *see also* references.

D.C. numbers appeared for the first time in Sears in the 1939 edition, which is in line with the L.C. policy of giving both the L.C. Classification and the subject heading. The D.C. editors are not always in agreement with the Sears editors on choice of specific classes noted but the latter adaptation is based on the plan used in *The Standard Catalog for Public Libraries* both in numbers used and in length. When more than one suggestion is given the first one is always *The Standard Catalog* choice. Numbers are simplified and limited in length to the second decimal except in rare cases.

The List of Subject Headings needs no recommendations. After twenty-one years of continued service and satisfaction this fifth edition is just one more proof of its excellence. However the librarians in our Catholic institutions would welcome an expansion of the limited section "Catholic" in the next edition. In the meantime the headings used in the *Catholic Periodical Index* form a current list from which to supplement the Sears.

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